

ING staff worldwide mark 21st anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Geneva, 20 November 2010 – This week tens of thousands of ING employees worldwide will be involved in an impressive movement of global solidarity, staff of financial institution ING will dedicate their time to activities in support of children to mark the 21st anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the international treaty setting out the rights of all children.

From Amsterdam to Mexico City colleagues will engage in volunteering or fundraising activities aimed at giving a better chance in life to children. An unprecedented 20% of the company's 106,000 strong workforce is expected to participate in the global challenge now in its third successful year. However big or small their efforts ING will match every cent raised for UNICEF to support the organization's global efforts to provide quality access to quality education for each and every child.

This year also represents the 5th anniversary of the ING – UNICEF partnership. Since 2005 the company has raised over 13 million euros for education programmes in Brazil, Ethiopia, India and Zambia. This week's activities taking place in 37 countries aims to exceed last year impressive fundraising achievement of over 900,000 euros.

- In Indonesia ING Jakarta will donate funds and go on a field trip to gain a better understanding of the UNICEF early childhood development programme in Banten province on the island of Java, Indonesia,
- In Turkey ING will renew its support to UNICEF and encourage employees to raise funds through various activities such as lottery tickets, collection boxes and opening of a special bank account. The management has committed to regularly encourage their team to increase participation.
- In Belgium employees will pair up in teams of three and organize numerous fundraising activities like sale of chocolate. Donations will be doubled matched by ING Belgium and also matched by ING HQ, so each euro raise will turn into four euros for UNICEF

Education provides the knowledge, values and skills that form the foundation for lifelong learning and professional success. Yet quality education remains a distant dream for many of the world's children, even though it is a fundamental human right enshrined in international commitments. Current estimates place the number of out-of-school children at 93 million – more than the entire population of the Philippines. The majority of these children are girls, and almost 80 per cent of them live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Nichole Brown, UNICEF's Chief of Corporate and Foundation Partnerships said: "This is an inspiring example of one the many ways in which UNICEF and the corporate sector can work together to improve the lives of children. Employee engagement like this fosters pride among staff, puts a company's corporate social responsibility into practice and raises much needed funds for children. I would like to thank the staff of ING worldwide for playing their part locally to contribute to an important global goal – a world where each and every child has access to quality education."

Fleur Hudig, Manager Community Investment ING Group said: "The ING Chances for Children - Global Challenge captures the charitable spirit of ING employees everywhere. This challenge has

become an internal movement that strengthens our commitment to children in all our communities and our global partnership with UNICEF. Each year our business units and employees are eager to bring this global event to the next level with energy, creativity and pride.

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